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# WARDLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

1955

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Medical Officer of Health.

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Cert. Meat & Other Foods,
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# REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1955.

To the Chairman of Members of the
Wardle Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health and Martality of your district during 1955.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (i) | Area in Acres | 3,192 |
| (ii) | Population 1951 Census | 4,893 |
| | Registrar-General's Estimate of resident population 1955 | 4,600 |
| (iii) | Number of inhabited houses at end of 1954, according to the rate book | 1,431 |
| (iv) | Rateable value | £31,641 |
| (v) | Sum represented by a penny rate | £127 |
| (vi) | Industries - The chief industries carried out in the area are:- cotton and woollen manufacturing, silk weaving, wallpaper printing, dairy farming and light engineering. | |
| (vii) | Unemployment - There was no unemployment worthy of mention during the year. | |

## VITAL STATISTICS.

| | Total | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|---|
| LIVE BIRTHS: | | | |
| Legitimate | 57 | 33 | 24 |
| Illegitimate | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| STILL BIRTHS: | | | |
| Legitimate | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| DEATHS OF INFANTS Under 1 year of age: | | | |
| Legitimate | 1 | 1 | 0 |

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

| | |
|---|---|
| Crude | 12.8 |
| Adjusted | 11.7 |

Still Births:-

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births 63

| | Total | Males | Females |
|---|---|---|---|
| Deaths | 64 | 27 | 37 |

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

| | |
|---|---|
| Crude | 11.7 |
| Adjusted | 7.5 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Infant mortality rate per 1,000 total births | 17 |
| Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births | Nil |
| Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births | 0 |
| Death from Cancer (all ages) | 8 |
| Death from Measles (all ages) | 0 |
| Death from Whooping Cough (all ages) | 0 |
| Death from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | 0 |

| | Live Birth Rate | Crude Death Rate | Rate of Death under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Year 1954 | 13.9 | 9.8 | 22 |
| Year 1955 | 12.8 | 11.7 | 17 |
| Change | - 0.9 | + 1.9 | 5 |

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

### Smallpox

No cases of Smallpox occurred in 1955.

### Scarlet Fever

Of the 8 cases reported 4 were removed and treated in hospital.

### Diphtheria

Again there were no cases.

### Enteric Fever

No cases.

### Whooping Cough.

Only 3 cases were notified.

### Measles.

28 cases of measles were notified.

### Puerperal Pyrexia.

One Puerperal Pyrexia was notified during the year, this occurring in Birch Hill Hospital.

### Erysipelas

No case to report.

### Tuberculosis.

1 new case was notified from the Urban District.

### Anthrax

No cases.

### Poliomyelitis.

One case was notified.

# TABLE I

## Notifiable Diseases during the year 1955 (including cases notified from Birch Hill)

| | Total cases at all ages. | Total cases notified — Years 0- | 1- | 3- | 5- | 10- | 15- | 25- | 45- | 65 & over | Total deaths | Total cases removed to Hospital from District. | Death in hospital of persons belonging to District. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Smallpox | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever | 8 | | | 2 | 6 | | | | | | | 4 | - |
| Diphtheria (including membranous croup) | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid) | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paratyphoid Fever | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Measles (excluding Rubella) | 28 | | 6 | 12 | 10 | | | | | | | | |
| Whooping Cough | 3 | | 1 | | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Acute Pneumonia | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Acute Polio-Encephalitis | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Acute Encephalitis Lethergica | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dysentery | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erysipelas | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malaria | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Food Poisoning | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Anthrax | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Meningococcal Infection | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tuberculosis Respiratory | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| | 44 | 1 | 7 | 15 | 19 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 4 | |

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED in 1955 apart from Tuberculosis were 43 as compared with 14 in 1954 and a comparative table below:-

| | 1954 | 1955 |
|---|---|---|
| Scarlet Fever | 2 | 8 |
| Diphtheria | - | - |
| Measles | 1 | 28 |
| Whooping Cough | 9 | 3 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | - | 1 |
| Puerpural Pyrexia | 1 | 1 |
| Dysentery | - | 1 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | - | 1 |
| | 14 | 43 |

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN 1955:-

| | Males | Females |
|---|---|---|
| Cancer | 3 | 5 |
| Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions | 2 | 4 |
| Heart Diseases | 14 | 12 |
| Diseases of circulatory system | - | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 1 | - |
| Bronchitis | 1 | - |
| Congenital Malformation | 1 | - |
| Influenza | 1 | - |
| All other causes | 3 | 6 |
| | 26 | 28 |

I am chiefly indebted for the information regarding un-notifiable diseases, to the returns of sickness in schools supplied to me by the Schools Attendance Officer.

I should like to express my appreciation of the efficient assistance given to me by Mr. John L. Seago, Mr. E.K. Gration and Mr. W. Oldham.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,

DONALD G. MACGILL,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1956

# REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1955

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE WARDLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

For the year 1955 I have to report as follows:-

## GENERAL SURVEY.

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

No complaints about the quality of the effluent were received during the year. The structure of the detritus tanks did not worsen during the year. New filter arms were fitted to two circular filter beds.

The sewers throughout the area have been sufficient at all times and again I can report a trouble-free year as far as the two syphons in Dyehouse Lane are concerned. The Ejector caused no trouble.

The sewers were treated for rats twice during the year and post-baiting showed no infestation.

### Infectious Diseases.

Four cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to hospital, and houses disinfected.

### House Refuse.

House refuse was removed on 37 occasions during the year, and disposal by controlled tipping at Ashbrook. Nightsoil from pails is also collected in a tank and poured into the sewer. No rat or fly infestation has occurred, but once during the year a small fire on the tip was extinguished.

### Slaughterhouses.

One slaughterhouse was licenced in 1954, and was used regularly without nuisance. Two other applications for licences were received and granted after the necessary structural alterations.

## LIST OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED

Animals examined:-

| Month | Bovines | Sheep | Pigs | Calves |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | 52 | 42 | 14 | 4 |
| February | 49 | 16 | 12 | 1 |
| March | 50 | 34 | 2 | - |
| April | 45 | 48 | 6 | - |
| May | 44 | 71 | - | - |
| June | 34 | 84 | - | - |
| July | 39 | 95 | 1 | - |
| August | 36 | 102 | - | - |
| September | 53 | 80 | 5 | 8 |
| October | 68 | 118 | 17 | 4 |
| November | 56 | 187 | 24 | - |
| December | 52 | 134 | 25 | 4 |
| | 588 | 1,011 | 106 | 21 |

Parts surrendered as unfit for human consumption:-

| Bovines:- | Reason |
|---|---|
| 12 lbs. body meat | Tuberculosis |
| 32 heads and tongues | do |
| 43 sets of lungs | do |
| 15 livers | do |
| 32 Messenteries | do |
| 4 livers | Cirrhosis |
| 1 liver | Cysts |
| 9 livers | Multiple abscesses |
| **Pigs:-** | |
| 4 whole carcases | Tuberculosis |
| 3 heads | do |
| 3 pluck | do |
| 3 messenteries | do |
| **Calves** | |
| 1 whole carcase | Immaturity |

The standard of animals slaughtered was good and the incidence of disease is reasonable.

## Shops

Meat shops continue to maintain good standard and on the whole the small house and shop traders have kept abreast with the times and introduced refrigerators in greater numbers. Bakehouses are attached to three shops, and have maintained a good standard.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water Supply.

Only 3% of the houses in the district have to rely on wells or springs for their water supply. The remaining 97% have a piped supply which is sufficient and suitable for all domestic purposes. The problem of the trouble caused by pressure and deposits, mentioned for three years, is still with us. At the beginning of the year the water supply was particularly dirty and complaints were made to Rochdale Corporation, but considerable improvement was noticed in February and this condition was well maintained.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

There has been no extensions during the year and the properties still unsewered are either outlying or low lying and are unconnected for economical or engineering reasons.

Negotiations for Rochdale Corporation to take and treat our sewage were were well forward at the end of the year and should be effected within three years.

### Rivers and Streams.

The River Roch continues to be polluted. The improvement noted last year has been maintained.

### Closet Accommodation.

The contribution payable by the Council as an inducement to owners to convert obsolete closets to fresh water flush type is £8 for each pail closet and £4 for each waste water closet.

### Smoke Abatement.

6 observations were taken during the year and none exceeded three minutes black smoke emission A considerable improvement on last year.

## Schools.

The three schools in the district are maintained in good order.

## Offensive Trade.

No nuisance has occurred from the only fellmonger in the district. No actual fellmongering work goes on at the present time.

## Housing.

12, two bedroom Council houses were built and occupied during 1955, and 3 new houses built by private persons. Two houses were demolished and three closed as a result of proceedings under the Housing Acts.

### TABLE II

### Relating to Unfit Houses (in accordance with Article 31 of the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925-1932.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation | 4 |
| 2. Number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. | 89 |
| 3. Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to:- | |
| (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or | 0 |
| (b) the making of demolition or closing orders | 5 |
| 4. Number of notices served requiring execution of works | 0 |
| 5. Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice | 0 |
| 6. Number of demolition or Closing Orders made | 3 |
| 7. Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (2) of Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1930. | 0 |
| 8. Number of houses demolished. | 2 |

## TABLE III

### Closet Accommodation

| | 1955 | 1954 | 1930 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Privy Middens | 28 | 28 | 55 |
| No. of closets attached to Middens | 26 | 26 | 55 |
| No. of Pail Closets | 78 | 78 | 156 |
| No. of dry Ashpits | 4 | 4 | 9 |
| No. of Ashbins | 1,275 | 1,260 | 473 |
| No. of houses on Water Carriage System | 977 | 954 | 444 |

During the year there were 6 conversions to fresh water flush closets from waste water closets.

## TABLE IV

### Inspections 1955

| | Visits or Inspections | Defects | Remedied |
|---|---|---|---|
| Housing | 168 | 96 | 81 |
| Factories | 27 | - | - |
| Food Premises | 31 | - | - |
| Slaughterhouses | 231 | - | - |
| Bakehouses | 12 | - | - |
| Nuisance & others | 306 | 178 | 164 |
| | 775 | 274 | 245 |

I wish to place on record my appreciation for the help of Mr. John L. Seago and Mr. E.K. Gration, Clerks of the Council, and the staff, for the ready and willing help on all occasions.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

W. OLDHAM,

Sanitary Inspector.

## TABLE V.

List of Acts and Sections
thereof adopted by the Wardle Urban
District Council

1. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (Part III) Adopted 15th May, 1891.

2. Infectious Diseases Notification Act. 1889. Adopted 6th April, 1899

3. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Parts II and III (excepting S.48) IV and V. Operative from 5th October, 1911.

4. Private Street Works Act, 1892. Operative from 5th October, 1911.

5. Notification of Births Act, 1907. Operative from 13th October, 1914.

6. Public Health Act, 1925 (Parts II, III and IV). Operative from 31st January, 1927.

7. Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899-1923. Adopted 2nd August, 1934.

8. Local Government and other Officers Superannuation Act, 1922. Adopted 1st April, 1938.

9. Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, Sections 13 and 14. Adopted 20th November, 1951.

10. Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14. 24th November, 1952.

OBSERVATIONS AS TO THEIR ADMINISTRATION:- Good.